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Grenada Situation Report

0700 Hours-26 October 1983

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--Fidel Castro said in a press conference this morning, the Cubans in Grenada did not want to fight US forces but were ordered to defend themselves. He also said that these personnel were on their own and that Cuba would not send additional forces to Grenada.

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Meanwhile, US forces on Grenada regrouped overnight and began preparations for launching an offensive against key objectives in the St. George's area.

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--US Marine armored elements were put ashore at Grand Mal Bay just north of St. George's last night.

--82nd Airborne troops and additional Blackhawk helicopters landed at Point Salines Airport late yesterday afternoon, and Multinational forces also began arriving yesterday.

--The key objectives for today are Fort Frederick, Richmond Hill Prison, the Governor-General's Residence, and Radio Free Grenada.

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Castro's Press Conference

In a press conference early this morning, President Castro attempted to place the onus for continued in Grenada on the US, stressing that Cuban personnel had been ordered to resist only if directly attacked. His handling of the issue of Cuban participation in the fighting suggests he has decided to sacrifice a token force of Cuban personnel to arouse anti-US sentiment at home and to bolster Cuba's international image at a time when Havana's revolutionary performance has fallen short of its rhetoric. ☐

Castro probably considered resistance as his only "honorable" response, under the circumstances, and as a means of diverting attention from his own bungled handling of Grenada's recent internal political struggle. He appears embarrassed and frustrated over his inability to play a major role in determining the outcome of key events in the region and the stiff Cuban resistance is his way of regaining at least a portion of the limelight and recovering lost prestige. ☐

He clearly fears being put in the same position in Nicaragua-- having to watch helplessly as his main enemy decides fundamental issues-- and he indicated that, in the event of US intervention there, Cuban personnel would fight as they did in Grenada. Castro may have also believed that a Cuban failure to resist in Grenada would undermine the determination of Cuban personnel to resist in Nicaragua should intervention occur there, too. At the same time, he signaled that he wants neither Grenada nor Nicaragua to draw Cuba into a full military confrontation with the US; in his remarks he said that Cuba did not have the means to send reinforcements to either country in the face of overwhelming superior force. ☐ 3

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WORLDWIDE REACTION

The USUN Mission reported that in a Security Council debate held late last night, with the exception of the US statement, all other speakers-- including Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Democratic Yemen, Guyana, USSR, Mexico, and Grenada-- condemned the US action and found it without justification.

Army Commander Bouterse has asked Havana to withdraw Cuban Ambassador Cardenas from Suriname within six days and to reduce the staff of the Cuban Embassy to one diplomat and three clerical personnel within 14 days.

- In a television address to the nation last night, Army Commander Bouterse deplored the death of Bishop and condemned the foreign invasion of Grenada
- In relating the Grenadian situation to Suriname, Bouterse noted "certain problems" in Paramaribo's relations with Cuba and expressed concern about Cuban Ambassador Cardenas.
- Bouterse said that projects undertaken within the framework of bilateral agreements would be drastically curtailed.

Other worldwide reaction has been mixed.

- ✓ --The French government implied that the attack had contravened international law.
- ✓ --Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez condemned the use of force in international relations, but said it was premature to make a definitive judgement.
- ✓ --Australia said that there was insufficient evidence for comment.
- ✓ --New Zealand asserted that it was dreadful that the invasion had occurred, but they supported the US position.
- ✓ --Egypt backed Washington by declaring that the invasion was compatible with the UN charter.
- ✓ --Prime Minister Nakasone regretted the action but said that he understood US concerns.
- ✓ --The government of South Korea recognized the necessity of the collective security measure for the protection of foreign nationals in Grenada.
- ✓ --The PRC strongly condemned the invasion as a flagrant violation of the

Reaction worldwide has been mixed. Latin American nations generally have condemned or expressed strong reservations on the action in Grenada:

- The Dominican Republic, twice occupied by US troops this century, condemned the invasion as deplorable and called for a return to normalcy.
- Ecuador called for an end to foreign intervention.
- The Colombian Foreign Minister reaffirmed his country's adherence to the principle of nonintervention, but said events were still too unclear to make a judgment.
- An Argentinian spokesman said his country strongly censures and condemns foreign intervention.
- Chile regretted that existing international organizations are not being utilized to prevent such conflicts.
- Bolivian government deputies condemned US actions.
- Uruguay expressed support for the US measures.
- Costa Rican President Monge called the invasion lamentable but reserved judgment on the issue.
- +The Guyanese government soundly condemned the US and is pressing for a UN resolution critical of the US and Caribbean actions in Grenada. A member of the UN Security Council, Guyana has asked Belize, Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago to cosponsor the resolution.
- Although expressing regret over US actions, Guatemala said it understood the US position and hopes the troops will not stay long.
- Mexico City issued strong condemnation of the invasion at the UN Security Council meeting and called for troop withdrawal.